



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### NEW FISHERY LABORATORY TO BE BUILT ON CHESAPEAKE BAY

A new Federal shellfish research laboratory will be built at Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The site was selected by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, after inspection of nearly 50 possible sites along the eastern shores of Chesapeake Bay. The site was donated by Arthur J. Grymes, Jr., owner and manager of Tidewater Inn at Easton, Maryland. It contains about 13 acres. It is located on the outskirts of Oxford on Bachelor's point at the junction of the Tred Avon and Choptank Rivers. The site has a 400-foot frontage on the Tred Avon.

The initial projects of the laboratory will relate to oysters and softshell clams. The oyster projects will include work on the artificial propagation of that shellfish, causes for mortality and a search for improved methods of obtaining seed oysters. The laboratory will consist of a building with the equipment necessary for the projects and several ponds which will be used in the study of oyster culture. Any research vessels attached to the laboratory will utilize a boat basin which will be dredged from the Tred Avon to a low place in the site.

The site was selected because it was found that the salinity of the water there was right for oyster culture, the water was clean with no indications of pollution in the future and there are few or no predators. The oyster drill and the starfish, master enemies of the oyster, are lacking entirely because of the brackishness of the water. A six-inch water line is on the edge of the property and electricity for lights and power is available.

Congress has made an initial appropriation of \$180,000 for the construction of the laboratory. Work on the plans is proceeding and bids will be called for as soon as possible.

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